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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Austin
Application No.: 09/966,686
Filed: October 1, 2001
For: A Method for Contracting, Loading or
Crimping Self-Expanding and Balloon
Expandable Stent Devices
Examiner: Jimenez, Marc Quemuel
Group Art Unit: 3726

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MAY 29 2002
TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Docket No.: S63.2-10142

AMENDMENT

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated February 13, 2002.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please replace claims 27 and 35 with the following amended claims:

27. (Amended) A method of reducing a stent in cross-section comprising the steps of
a) providing a plurality of closely spaced wedge-shaped dies, the dies disposed about a
circle and forming an aperture;
b) placing a stent within the aperture;
c) moving the dies so as to reduce the size of the aperture and apply an inward force to
the stent.

35. (Amended) A method of reducing a stent in cross-section comprising the steps of
a) disposing a stent in an aperture of a device for reducing a stent in cross-section, the
aperture defined by at least three closely spaced dies disposed about the aperture;
b) reducing the size of the aperture by moving the dies inward, the dies applying a force to the
stent to reduce the stent in size.